

AMENDMENTSAmendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 20 of page 1 and ending at line 38 of page 1 as follows:

This problem is solved first and foremost by the subject matter of ~~claim 1 to 22~~ the claims of the present invention, this being based on the fact that the holding-down piston and the die piston are activated by the same hydraulic pressure, the effective piston area of the holding-down piston being formed to be smaller than the effective piston area of the die piston. As a result of this configuration, the riveting unit according to the invention may advantageously be operated with just one hydraulic piston for displacing both the holding-down piston and the die piston. It is thus possible, for example, for an electric motor-operated, hydraulic unit to be used for the hydraulic activation of the holding-down and die pistons. Such a unit is known, for example, from German Patent Application 198 25 160. The content of this patent application is hereby also included in full in the disclosure of the present invention, also for the purpose of incorporating features of this patent application in patent claims of the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 6 of page 8 and ending at line 28 of page 8 as follows:

The invention additionally relates to a method of riveting two sheet-like elements by means of a riveting device, in particular of a riveting unit as claimed in one or more of ~~claims 1 to 22~~ the claims, which has a holding-down means and a riveting die, first of all the holding-down means

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being brought into abutment against the elements and then the riveting die pressing a rivet into the elements, connecting the latter in the process, or joining the elements directly to one another. In order to advantageously improve a method of the type in question, it is proposed that the holding-down force is increased in dependence on the riveting-die force, but to a lesser extent. In this respect, it further proves to be advantageous for the holding-down force to be increased starting from a level which initially exceeds the riveting-die force. As a result of this configuration, during a riveting operation, the holding-down force initially selected is of such a magnitude that precise positioning of the elements which are to be connected is ensured and there is then an increase in the riveting-die force beyond the level of the holding-down force for the purpose of carrying out the riveting operation.

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